IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, the method comprising:

inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;

using the agents to intercept ~~intercepting~~ the function calls to the standard programming functions made by the plurality of applications;

routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions;

using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the standard programming functions comprise memory functions.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting the function calls in a production environment.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

modifying program code of at least one of the applications to enable the intercepting the function calls to the standard programming functions.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using the availability metrics for performance management of the plurality of applications in the distributed management framework.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

configuring the distributed management framework to monitor a subset of the plurality of applications.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

aggregating the availability metrics for the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;

using the agents to intercept ~~intercepting~~ the function calls to the standard programming functions made by the plurality of applications;

routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions;

using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9,

wherein the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting the function calls in a production environment.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

modifying program code of at least one of the applications to enable the intercepting the function calls to the standard programming functions.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

aggregating the availability metrics for the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.

14. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for use in a distributed management framework, the system~~ comprising:

~~a plurality of application servers comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions; and~~

~~a performance management system which is operable to:~~

at least one processor; and

at least one memory coupled to the at least one processor, wherein the at least one memory stores program instructions that are executable by the at least one processor to:

insert a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;

use the agents to intercept ~~the~~ one or more function calls to ~~the~~ one or more standard programming functions made by ~~the~~ a plurality of applications;

route the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions; and

use the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14,

wherein ~~the intercepting the function calls comprises intercepting~~ the function calls are intercepted in a production environment.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein ~~the performance management system is further operable to~~ the program instructions are further executable by the at least one processor to:

modify program code of at least one of the applications to enable ~~the performance management system to intercept~~ the interception of the function calls to the standard programming functions.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein ~~the performance management system is further operable to~~ the program instructions are further executable by the at least one processor to:

aggregate the availability metrics for the plurality of applications at a console for performance management.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein each of the plurality of applications is configured to make function calls to standard programming functions, the system comprising:

means for inserting a respective agent into each of the plurality of applications upon a launch of the application;

means for using the agents to intercept ~~intercepting~~ the function calls to the standard programming functions made by the plurality of applications;

means for routing the function calls to alternative implementations of the standard programming functions;

means for using the alternative implementations of the standard programming functions to collect availability metrics for the plurality of applications.

20.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a distributed management framework comprising a plurality of applications, wherein the plurality of applications comprise at least one monitored application, the method comprising:

modifying program code of the monitored application to include ~~additional instructions~~ an agent;

using the ~~additional instructions~~ agent in the monitored application to monitor execution of the monitored application in a production environment; and

automatically generating output in response to a triggering event in the execution of the monitored application, wherein the output comprises an execution history for the monitored application.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23,

wherein the using the ~~additional instructions~~ agent in the monitored application to monitor execution of the monitored application comprises recording an execution trace of the execution of the monitored application on a per-thread basis.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23,

wherein the using the ~~additional instructions~~ agent in the monitored application to monitor execution of the monitored application comprises recording entries to and exits from function calls during execution of the monitored application.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23,

wherein the using the ~~additional instructions~~ agent in the monitored application to monitor execution of the monitored application comprises capturing exceptional control transfers during execution of the monitored application.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23,

wherein the using the ~~additional instructions~~ agent in the monitored application to monitor execution of the monitored application comprises tracking creation of data objects during execution of the monitored application.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27,

wherein the using the ~~additional instructions~~ agent in the monitored application to monitor execution of the monitored application comprises recording metrics for the creation of data objects.